

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Hays, Mayeda, Ning, Robbins, Taniguchi, and Chairperson Gilbert.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and Park Services Manager Carson.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Taniguchi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the July 14, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. STATUS OF WILSON PARK POND RESTORATION PROJECT

Community Service Director Jones noted that the estimated timeline for completion of the project was included in agenda materials. He stated that the pond would be filled with water on August 16, 2010 and that staff is working with the contractor to make sure all is completed by August 22, 2010 for the Torrance Symphony Concert in the Park.

7B. STATUS OF SUMMER 2010 CONCERTS AND MOVIES IN THE PARK

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that there have been four successful concerts at Columbia Park this summer, with approximately 350 people at each. The last concert on August 15 will feature The Black Tongued Bells. He stated that it is unfortunate that the program has been reduced to only one concert next summer.

He encouraged Commissioners to attend "Racers, Start Your Engines!," all day race-related activities at Victor Park hosted by Torrance Public Library that will lead up to the presentation of the final movie "Cars."

Responding to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry, he explained that \$5,000 is budgeted for each Concert in the Park and includes the consultant fee, musicians, Park Services staff, Park Rangers, and sound equipment.

7C. REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF A "NO SMOKING" ORDINANCE IN CITY PARKS

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the item. He reported that the City Attorney's office reviewed the proposed ordinance and has requested more direction before moving forward with the proposal as a public hearing. He suggested that the item be referred to the Open Space Committee and that they should 1) review the State law regarding this issue; 2) review the current ordinance in Torrance that bans smoking on City beaches; 3) review other examples of smoking ordinances passed by Los Angeles County and other neighboring cities, and 4) define areas/open spaces/parks/facilities that would fall under this ordinance. He noted that it would be possible to amend the existing ordinance that bans smoking on City beaches.

Pamela Ennis, NCADD/South Bay, Post Avenue, stated that NCADD is working to ban smoking in all outdoor areas but is currently concerned with banning smoking in City parks. She stated that smoke-free parks are self-enforcing with proper signage and no additional costs would be incurred for enforcement since it would occur in regular patrols.

Commissioner Robbins expressed hope that the proposed ordinance would be enforced if approved.

Senior Business Manager Minter suggested that the Committee consider including any tobacco product in the ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to assign the "No Smoking" ordinance in City Parks to the Open Space Committee. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. DISCUSSION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS TO FILL VARIOUS STANDING COMMITTEES

Community Services Director Jones provided background about the merger of the Parks and Recreation Commission with the Community Services Commission and the approval to rotate the most senior Commissioner onto the Grant Standing Committee. He noted that an attachment provides the current Standing Committees and who are assigned to them, as well as the pre-approved appointment of Commissioner Ning to the Grants Committee.

Commissioner Baxter volunteered to fill the vacancies on the Open Space Committee and Facilities Committee. No Commissioners expressed interest in changing their current assignments.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to assign Commissioner Baxter to the Open Space Committee and Facilities Committee. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8B. APPROVAL TO LEASE A PORTION OF PROPERTY AT SUNNYGLEN PARK FOR A T-MOBILE CELLULAR SITE

Staff requested that this item be pulled from the agenda and advised that it would be brought back to the Commission at the September 8, 2010 meeting.

8C. APPROVAL OF 2009 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner Ning, moved to recommend for approval the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report for July 2009 to June 2010 as submitted; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for July 2010 was included in agenda packets. He reported that July was busy for facility bookings and that new Facility Reservation Specialist Annie Thompson is doing an excellent job. He stated that permits are now being issued for Victor Park, Paradise Park, El Retiro Park, and Walteria Park and added that the Fall Seasons guide has been issued.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for July 2010 was included in agenda materials. He reported that the rotunda at El Retiro Park has been completed and that a Latter Day Saints chapter has painted a beach scene mural on the inside of it.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for July 2010 was included in agenda packets. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the August 20-21, 2010 Aquacade, reported that the students from Kashiwa, Japan were presented to City Council on August 10, 2010, and that staff is busy getting ready for the fall season.

Commissioner Robbins related his observation that Torrance Certified Farmers' Market revenues are down for Tuesdays but up for Saturdays.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioners and staff welcomed new Commissioner Baxter.

11B. Senior Business Manager Minter provided a recap of City Council's unanimous decision on the name Seaside Heroes Park for the new Lomita Anza park. He noted that there would be a dedication plaque on the sign naming the three fallen soldiers from the area. He announced the community tile-painting workshop on August 14, 2010 at Sea Aire Golf Course and that 30 cherry trees are being donated for the park.

11C. Commissioner Hays stated that he was pleased with the new name and that City Council was able to balance the strong desires of the neighborhood as well as broader issues being considered.

11D. Commissioner Ning extended his congratulations to Chairperson Gilbert for successfully leading her first meeting.

11E. Commissioner Mayeda stated that he enjoyed a visit to Victor Park and was surprised to see so many children. He also had the opportunity to visit the La Romeria summer day camp and was impressed with the excursions they offer.

11F. Commissioner Taniguchi pointed out that the name Seaside Heroes was originally suggested by Commissioner Mayeda.

11G. Commissioner Baxter thanked Commissioners and staff for the warm welcome and stated that he was pleased to be part of the Commission. He stated that he enjoyed the Brazilian music at the Concert in the Park last weekend.

11H. Community Services Director Jones thanked Commissioner Ning for serving as Chairperson and stating that he was looking forward to a fun and exciting year.

11I. Senior Business Manager announced a performance by Torrance Symphony at Wilson Park on August 22, 2010.

11J. Chairperson Gilbert announced "Pirates of Penzance" beginning August 13, 2010 at the Armstrong Theatre and the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation's presentation of Larry Miller on September 25, 2010. She stated that she is on the Centennial Committee and that they are planning to plant 100 trees on Arbor Day.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting to September 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Ning seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Gilbert so ordered.

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| Approved as Submitted September 8, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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